## Four Graduate Students Receive "J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowships"

**FOUR** outstanding graduate students have been announced as the 1994 winners of the "J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowships" by the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI). Grants of \$2,000 each are presented to the individuals. All are candidates for either the Master of Science (M.S.) or the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in soil fertility and related sciences.

The 1994 recipients were chosen from over 30 applicants who sought the Fellowships. The four are:

- Craig W. Bednarz, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville;
- Bryan G. Hopkins, Kansas State University, Manhattan;
- Grady L. Miller, Auburn University, Alabama;
- Stuart Pocknee, University of Georgia, Athens.

Funding for the Fellowships is provided through support by potash and phosphate producers who are member companies of PPI.

"Each year, we have the privilege of presenting this recognition. All of the applicants for the Fellowships have excellent credentials," noted Dr. David W. Dibb, President, PPI. "The individuals selected and their educational institutions can take pride in the level of achievement represented."

The Fellowship winners are selected by a committee of PPI scientists. The Fellowships are named in honor of Dr. J. Fielding Reed, retired President of the Institute, who now lives in Athens, GA.

Dr. W.R. Thompson, Jr., PPI Midsouth Director, served as chairman of the selection committee for the 1994 Fellowships.

Scholastic record, excellence in original research, and leadership are among the important criteria evaluated for the Fellowships. Following is a brief summary of information for each of the winners:



**Craig W. Bednarz** was born in Slaton, TX. He received both his B.S. and his M.S. degrees at Texas Tech University. He is currently studying for his Ph.D. degree at the University of Arkansas. His doctoral

Craig W. Bednarz

research deals with the physiology of potassium (K) nutrition in cotton. His research in progress is designed to demonstrate how plant uptake of K can occur in apparent luxury amounts and how these resources can be re-translocated when needed. Mr. Bednarz would like to do postdoctoral work at a major university or other research establishment, which he believes will be beneficial in his finding a position in a university. His additional goal is to "contribute not only to the scientific community of which I am a member, but also to the local community in which my wife and I eventually reside."

Brvan G. Hopkins was born in Idaho Falls, ID. He attended Idaho State University, then Ricks Colbefore lege receiving his B.S. degree from Brigham Young University (BYU). He also earned his



Bryan G. Hopkins

M.S. degree at BYU and has been working toward his Ph.D. at Kansas State University since 1991. The objectives of his doctoral research are to conduct studies to determine grain sorghum response to zinc (Zn), then correlate that response to soil Zn levels and possibly other soil parameters to formulate fertilizer guidelines. He will also evaluate sorghum hybrids to determine Zn use efficiency and critical nutrient ranges. Mr. Hopkins' long-term career goals include continuing research which refines soil fertility principles and practices. He would also like "to help bridge the gap between research and the real world by being an educator."



Grady L. Miller is currently working toward a Ph.D. degree at Auburn University. He holds a B.S. degree from Louisiana Tech University and an M.S. degree from Louisiana State University. He is a native of

Grady L. Miller

Florien, LA. The title of his dissertation is 'Role of Potassium (K) Fertilization in Development of Freezing Resistance in Bermudagrass'. The objectives of his research are to (1) evaluate the residual effects of K on cold tolerance, (2) determine the influence of K on plant characteristics thought to be related to cold tolerance, and (3) identify the mechanism by which K influences freeze resistance in turfgrass. Mr. Miller would like to be a part of a multidisciplinary research team with the goal of increasing knowledge of turfgrass culture. He is also interested in teaching at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Stuart Pocknee is a native of Brisbane, Australia. He earned a B.S. degree from the University of Queensland, in Australia. He is presently studying for his M.S. degree at the University of Georgia, under



**Stuart Pocknee** 

the direction of Professor Malcolm Sumner. Mr. Pocknee's research deals with the effects of organic matter additions on soil pH and the mechanisms of those effects. His interest in this type of study was generated by the fact that organic matter can be an effective alternative to lime where lime use is impractical, as in some developing countries. He characterizes early results from incubation studies as being 'very promising' with regards to pH response from different organic matter inputs. Mr. Pocknee would like to work as a soil fertility and soil conservation researcher in those areas of the world that are most threatened by degradation and production shortfalls.

## **Nutrient Management Conference Proceedings**

**PROCEEDINGS** of a recent conference, "Nutrient Management on Highly Productive Soils," are available from PPI. The Conference took place May 16-18, 1994, in Atlanta, GA. It was organized by PPI and the Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR), with co-sponsorship from government and industry sectors.

Conference discussion topics covered in the proceedings include: importance of maintaining soil fertility; fertilizer recommendations and spatial variability; site-specific nutrient management; individualized nutrient management recommendations; role of fertilizer placement in improved productivity; economic and environmental impacts of intensive cropping systems; a discussion of regulatory effects on fertilizer use, and numerous other topics.

The Proceedings (PPI/FAR Special Publication 1994-1, 187 pages) is available by mail at a price of \$15.00. For more information or to order copies of the proceedings, contact: PPI, 2805 Claflin Road, Suite 200, Manhattan, KS 66502; phone (913)776-0273, (fax) 913-776-8347. ■